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NIE format -
regional classification

21 September 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR/INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Revision of System for Numbering NIE's

1. This memorandum is in response to your oral request for a numbering system which would include a code reference to the area covered in a given estimate.
2. We have given this matter considerable attention and have concluded that there is no system both practical and precise which can be applied to the great variety of estimates produced by GRS.
3. If general code reference to an area or subject is considered by you sufficient, then a scheme can be used that has some additional advantages over our present strictly chronological system.
4. The new designation would consist of a prefix indicating whether the estimate is regular or special (NIE or SE) followed by three numbers separated by hyphens. The first number would be a code indicating the area or country primarily covered in the estimate; the second would be used to designate the serial place of the estimate in the total annual production; the third would indicate the calendar year in which produced.

Examples:

NIE 10-32-53, "Soviet Miss Capabilities through Mid-1953".

- NIE = regular national intelligence estimate.
- 10 = code series designation for the Soviet Miss (or China).
- 32 = 32nd estimate produced on all subjects in 1953, no distinction being made between SE's and NIE's.
- 53 = 1953, calendar year within which produced.

5. The number would indicate that the estimate was one of a series (see attachment for coding index). Thus readers would

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See also one subject
 file on "numbering systems"

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comes to know that the 20 series covered Europe, and that any number over 20 but within the 20's would designate an estimate on some part of Europe; e.g. 23 for Germany.

6. If we change our present system, the time to do it is at the beginning of 1954 rather than when we have reached any given number under the present system. With slants, MIK's, SK's, SIK's, supplements, and appendices, stopping at MIL-100 has no significance; starting on 1 January 1954 does.

7. Recommendation

That OME consult with the IAC agencies, and, if no major objections are raised, that the scheme outlined herein be adopted beginning 1 January 1954.

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[Redacted]
Deputy Assistant Director
National Estimates

APPROVED:

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Deputy Director/Intelligence

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